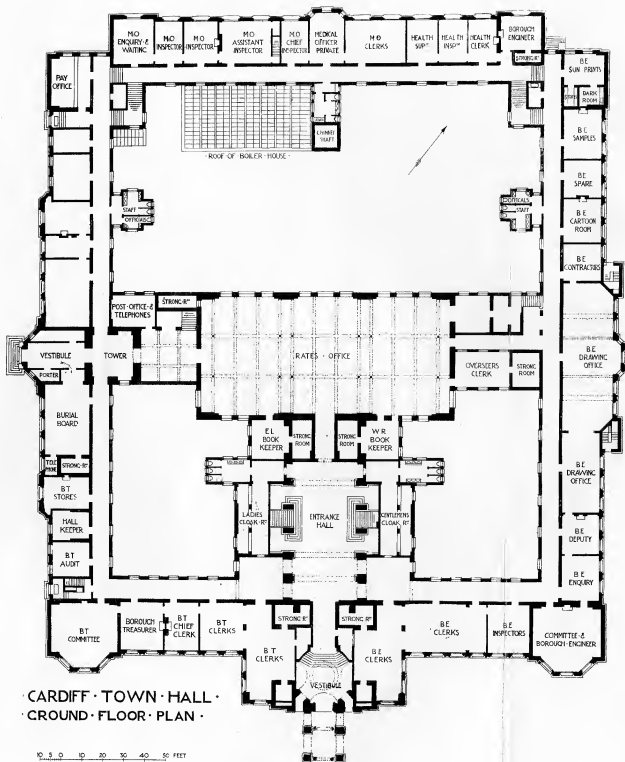


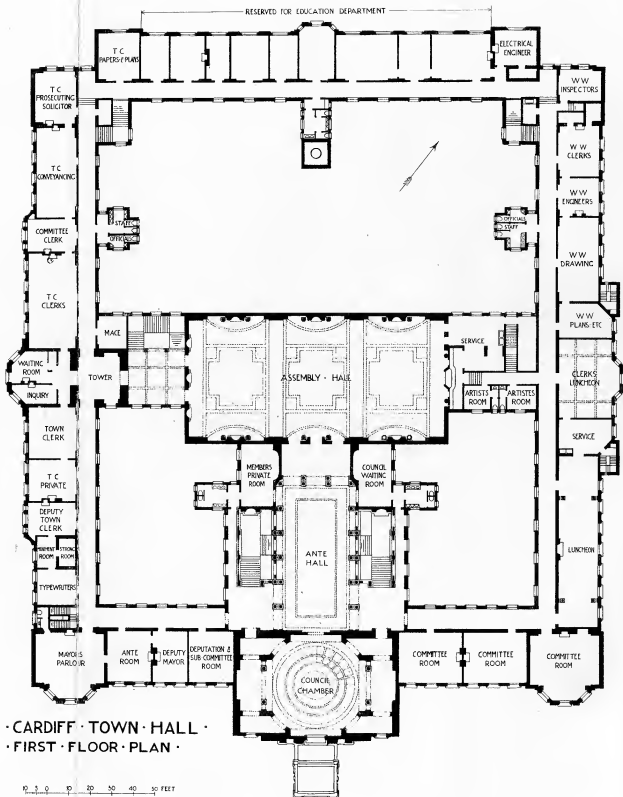


PRELIMINARY PERSPECTIVE DRAWING OF THE SCHEME.



CARDIFF · TOWN · HALL ·
GROUND · FLOOR · PLAN ·

0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET



· CARDIFF · TOWN · HALL ·
· FIRST · FLOOR · PLAN ·

Cardiff City Hall and Law Courts.

Lanchester and Rickards, Architects.

It is difficult in a retrospect carrying us back over a period of eight years to reconstruct the enthusiasm and ideas with which one approached a subject with such possibilities as the erection of these buildings afforded.

The site itself gave an opportunity seldom offered in this country, the complete isolation from any other buildings, and the almost ideal setting furnished by the park surroundings naturally suggesting a monument, in the abstract, of the symmetry and proportions commensurate with other public buildings of the Continent and America, where expense has apparently been no obstacle and space has been unlimited.

In the present instance the space was adequate, but the reduction to simple terms and anything like monumental simplicity and coherence of the very many requirements and features to be embodied presented a problem to which a really satisfactory artistic solution was hardly possible, especially as in this case, as usually, the amount to be expended was definitely stated.

In brief the requirements set forth in the competition instituted for this work were as follows:—The position of the buildings was defined by a frontage line on the south, and by the instruction that the City Hall was to be placed on the east side of the Central Avenue, and the Law Courts on the west, between this avenue and the North Road, one of the main thoroughfares leading out of the town.

The chief requirements for the City Hall consisted of a large assembly hall, ante hall, and council chamber *en suite*, with Mayor's parlour, committee and other rooms in close juxtaposition, extensive suites of offices for the various departments, including supplementary committee rooms for those committees in close touch with departmental work. Especially large and im-

portant rooms were required for the rates office and the engineer's drawing office, the latter, of course, demanding north-east aspect.

Accommodation had also to be provided for caretaker and for the attendance on municipal receptions and banquets.

The Law Courts were to be divided into two main portions, namely the assize courts with the usual adjuncts, open only when assizes are held; and the police courts and headquarters which would be in daily use, these latter including accommodation for the A division of police, the magistrates, the head constable and his staff.

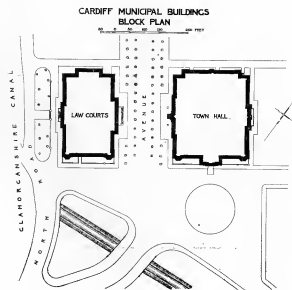
Two assize courts, two police courts, and a wreck court for nautical cases were required, and the convenient arrangement of these with all the necessary rooms and lines of communication offered many interesting problems for solution.

The conditions imposed as to cost allowed of no margin for the waste of space and bulk necessary for the masking of certain features and the blending of many smaller parts into the mass such as is so often done in work of this character abroad, when the architect is allowed a certain licence in these respects. Beyond an allowance made for the raising of the buildings a few feet from the ground, no money has been available for any expenditure above that necessary for the specified contents as set forth in the original conditions.

The first illustration given is a reproduction of a pen and ink drawing made immediately after the adoption of the design. Though certain revisions of the original design are embodied in this, it is yet a mere sketch of the buildings as they are now carried out; for the purpose of this article, however, it serves to show the general composition and effect, from which idea the executed work has been evolved during the progress of erection.

Owing to an extra amount of accommodation which was required, the City Hall was enlarged in width to the extent of two bays of the general façade, with considerable improvement to the proportion of the grouping generally, and also with the result of emphasising the relative importance between the two buildings; otherwise the main features remain in disposition as first conceived.

Perhaps the chief departure from the first study as shown in the drawings is the concentration of the ornament and sculpture, of which we give a general description. Though this is by no means confined to the south or principal fronts, the most important of this work is naturally placed there, but as far as possible the character of these fronts has been continued on all the various elevations. The containing angles of each building are all formed by pavilions of identical design, and an effect of symmetry is thus produced.





GENERAL VIEW OF COMPLETED BUILDINGS FROM THE SOUTH.

Photo. T. Lewis, Birmingham.

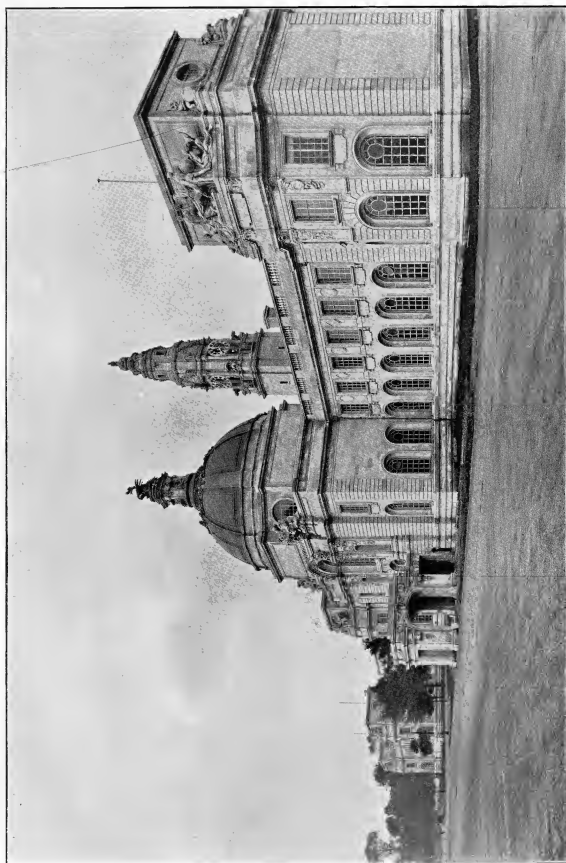


Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

GENERAL VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

The differences in the fenestration are to some extent concealed, and assisted by this means and a sense of solidarity an effect is obtained that would otherwise have been impossible owing to the varied forms and requirements of the interiors of two buildings of such opposite character. This is especially to be felt in the façades towards the Avenue, which enclose interiors widely differing in purpose and entirely different as to levels. Yet they are brought into line and enclosed by the pavilions which, beyond the ornament imposed, correspond in all their architectural forms.

In discussing the principal interest of the exteriors, the south fronts, which practically form one long façade intersected by the avenue, first claim attention. The portion of the City Hall enclosing the domed council chamber and the main entrance under has given scope for a more plastic treatment than the remainder.

The manner of lighting this large room by the central window and from the four angles under the dome has allowed sufficient wall space to partially separate it from the neighbouring work, and thus to suggest a monument complete in itself. The ornament and sculpture here, as elsewhere, has a special significance. The lantern of the dome serves as a pedestal to the lead figure of a dragon, the symbol of Wales. This with the lead ornament of the dome was executed by Messrs. J. W. Singer and Sons from models by Mr. H. C. Fehr; it is an experiment to an unusually large scale in this material, and was cast in seven pieces, built up in an iron frame, and burnt together in position. This and portions of the dome and lantern under are partially gilt.

The large stone panel at the north central window is intended for an inscription, not yet carried out. The two large groups of statuary flanking this represent respectively the sea receiving the Severn and the three



"THE WELSH DRAGON," ON SUMMIT OF THE DOME.

MADE OF CAST LEAD FROM A MODEL BY H. C. FEHR.

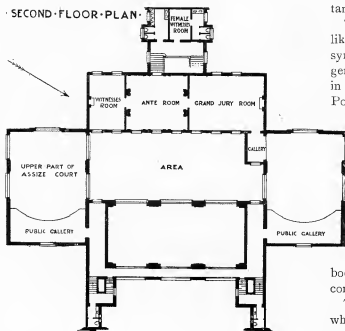
ivers of the city, the Taſſ, the Rhymney, and the Ely; the latter is the work of Mr. Henry Poole, the former of Mr. Paul Montford, who is also responsible for the execution of the ornament to the pilasters on either side of the large window; these suggest the products and character of the North, South, East, and West and the traffic of the city of Cardiff with the four quarters of the globe; while the decorations to the attached porch, also carried out by Mr. Montford, are more the embodiment of the civic emblems and local characteristics. The arms of the town of Cardiff (which has so recently attained the dignity of a city) and the figures to the arch of the large window are due to the assistance of Mr. D. McGill.

The pavilions in their turn have been treated in a like manner, each forming a setting for a large group of symbolical sculpture. Reading from the right of the general view here illustrated, the four groups represent, in allegory, Welsh Unity and Patriotism, Music and Poetry, Commerce and Industry, and Science and Education. The last is from the studio of Mr. D. McGill, the first mentioned from that of Mr. Henry Poole, and the two others are by Mr. Paul Montford.

The remaining decoration to each pavilion has been carried out by the sculptor of the particular group, and an attempt has been made to give a literary and explanatory character to the details of this work, to accompany the motive of the large group, by embodying the actual forms of accessories rather than a conventional and abstract treatment.

Thus, the whole of this decoration work in stone, while serving the same purpose in effect as the traditional architectural ornament, has an interest derived from the purposes and environment of the buildings which it adorns.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN.



CARDIFF LAW COURTS.



CENTRAL PORTION, SOUTH FRONT OF CITY HALL.

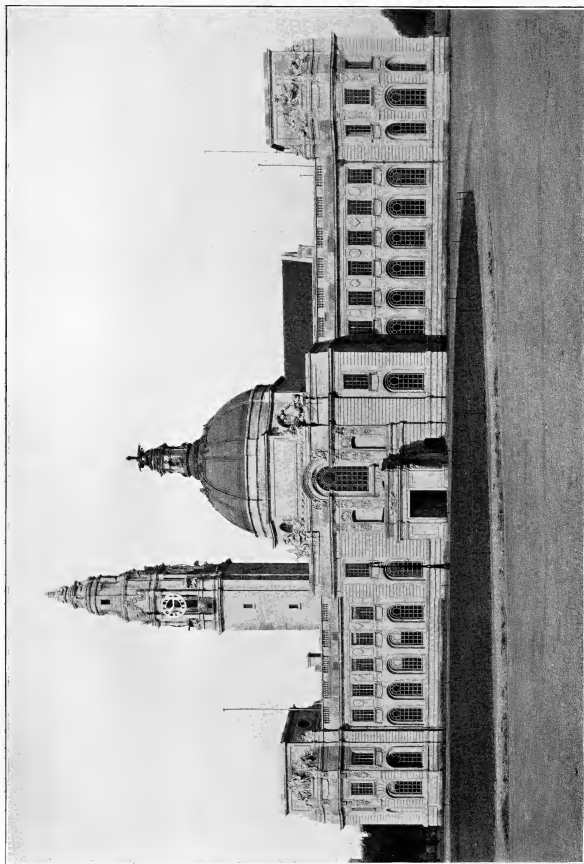
Photo - T. Lewis, Birmingham.

The two important façades which face the avenue are necessarily marked by different character, though the general heights and cornice are in accord.

This difference is largely veiled by the screen of the trees which line either side of this beautiful thoroughfare which extends right through the park.

The elevation of the City Hall consists mainly of a repetition of the general details of the south front, but its monotony is effectively broken up by the leafage through which it is seen. On the other

hand, that of the Law Courts is scarcely assisted by this, and can only be seen in entirety during the winter months. The view here given shows the south front with the east in sharp perspective with the double loggia flanking the judges' entrance just visible. A reference to the plans will show that the whole of this central portion is treated as a portal containing the various entrances necessitated by this particular class of building. The central doorway is therefore not rendered unduly assertive, and the



SOUTH FRONT OF THE CITY HALL.

Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

low relief of the treatment adopted is due to this intention.

The sculpture has been executed by Mr. Albert Hodge, and embodies the Royal Arms and symbols of Justice which are easily recognised from a closer point of view. The sculpture at the base of the architrave is practically at the level of the eye when seen from the pavement level, as shown by the general view of the façade. The two large lamps to the pedestals at either end of the steps are, unfortunately, not yet in position.

The north fronts, which look out on the park behind, are comparatively simple in treatment; beyond a few accessories to the pavilions which are carried out from the same models as those from which the details of the south front were carved, there is little sculpture. A view is, however, given of the bay in the centre of the City Hall, decorated from models by Mr. Albert Hodge. The photograph of this façade includes a picturesque view of the tower as seen above the foliage of the park.

Of the remaining two façades, the east front of the City Hall is remarkable for a large decorative group by Mr. Albert Hodge, of the same proportions as those on the main fronts. Like much of the other sculpture, it is suggestive of the sea and the relation of the city of Cardiff to this element.

The view of the magistrates' entrance shows the centre of the west front of the Law Courts, and the ornament here, as well as in some other instances, is from models by Mr. T. A. Jones, of Cardiff. It is in the same spirit which characterises that before described.

The main tower, while preserving the general form, shows the same modification from the original sketch as the remainder of the design has undergone. The four angle figures of the winds are by Mr. H. C. Fehr, who has supplied models for the other ornament on the tower, including the city arms immediately above the dial of clock. This dial has been constructed in skeleton form, as it was felt that an illuminated face at this elevation would too severely cut up the architectural lines of this ornament. The bells are practically in the open on the level at which the dials are placed.

The interior of these buildings necessarily contains many distinct departments and suites of rooms which are hardly of the scale hinted at by the general design, except in the central portion of the City Hall, devoted to receptions and the hall, and the approaches to the courts in the other building, where every opportunity has been offered for a treatment in harmony with that suggested outside.

In the former instance the staircase hall forms the centre of the suite of large rooms, and being open to the staircase provides a series of vistas at both ground and first floor levels rarely obtainable in the largest interiors. The treatment of the ground floor, lined entirely with Bath stone, is comparatively simple, as it will be practically a hall of assembly adjacent to the cloak-rooms and entrances; but the upper level is more elaborately finished. The monolith columns in Siena marble are blended into the

general scheme by the same material being largely used in the composition of the floor, while the bronze balustrade, and caps and bases to the columns, and the electric light fittings in the same material produce a general golden effect, which is repeated in the note of the painted and stained glass of the windows beyond. These embody the arms of the town and the families associated so intimately with its progress and development. They are from cartoons executed by Mr. Alfred Garth Jones, the well-known decorative artist, and carried out by Messrs. Lowndes and Drury.

The walls are lined with cement and painted with occasional decorations in cast plaster from models by Mr. Henry Poole. This ornament, like much of that in the exterior, is suggestive of the water in its details.

It is much to be regretted that the design of the staircases has not been completed by the painting for which the central ceiling has been designed, but it is hoped that this will be carried out eventually, if not at public expense, by the assistance of a private purse.

In the same manner the assembly hall would be rendered more complete by certain portions being carried out in colour. The highly ornamented ceiling, which was modelled by Mr. G. P. Bankart, of Bromsgrove, contains panels which might be treated in a pictorial manner, though this would mean a general scheme of colour decoration to contain them. As this room now stands, the one note of colour consists of the three electric light fittings in bronzed wrought iron, which has been made by Messrs. Singer, of Frome, and finished to correspond in effect with the bronze work of the other fittings, and the staircase balustrade is executed by the same firm. These are unusually elaborate in design, and, though weighing as much as a ton each, are suspended from above the ceiling by special gearing so that they can be lowered as occasion demands. The illustration shows a small music gallery at the end, under which are the service doors for banquets, etc.

The council room is entered in the usual course by side doors at the head of each staircase, so that the members are not directly disturbed.

Unfortunately the screen and dais to the Lord Mayor's seat, and the hangings generally, are not yet finished, and further illustrations of this room, and the committee rooms, and mayor's parlour, which are similarly incomplete, must stand over for a while. Another example of stained and painted glass by the same executants as that in the staircase is here to be seen in the large window that forms a conspicuous feature from the outside. The large fitting suspended from the dome is a replica of those in the assembly hall, and the woodwork of the seating and panelling is in Austrian oak with inlay of holly in repeating patterns, and was executed by the general contractors.

The four monolith marble columns are of Fleur-de-Peche Breccia from Polinice Neris antique quarry; this and all the other marble work is by Messrs. H. T. Jenkins and Son, of Torquay.



Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.

SOUTH FRONT OF THE LAW COURTS.

Of the other rooms on this floor, we are only able to show a photograph of the luncheon room, which it is proposed shall also be used as a refreshment room on occasions in connection with the assembly hall suite. Space forbids a general view of the rates office on the ground floor in which several departments are included and separated by screen divisions. It occupies the whole of the space under the assembly hall, and is lighted from both sides. The remainder of the ground floor with the exception of the two committee rooms on the south front is devoted to offices which are not yet furnished, so that illustrations for the time are omitted.

It is worth remarking that the City Council of Cardiff have spared no efforts in attempting to render this building and the Law Courts complete even to matters of detail and furniture, which have been executed from our designs for all the principal apartments. (To our regret it has been impossible to obtain photographs of much of this work, though it is practically completed.) We are thus indebted to them for the opportunity afforded of completing this work in a manner which is always so desirable when a general harmony of effect has been the aim.

Passing to the Law Courts, a reference to the illustrations will show that the central lobby of the loggia opens directly on to the staircase to the assize courts hall. The piers and special features of this are in Bath stone, and the plaster and carved stone decoration has been all executed by Mr. Paul Montford. The electric light brackets to the piers and the pendants over the staircase were not fixed at the time these views were taken, and the austerity of effect is thus exaggerated, though the treatment is naturally a more severe one than that adopted for the Town Hall staircase.

The assize court shown is seen from the bench level. The disposition of the seating in all its details has resulted from conference with the leading authorities, with the approval of the majority.

The other views at this level include the law library placed in the south front and occupying one of the large pavilions in close relation to the judges' and barristers' corridor, and the staircase leading from this corridor to the magistrates' hall and entrance, which is thus at the disposal of the judges as a private entrance. One of the police courts is given with a view taken again from the bench level.

Though the character of the work is fairly obvious from the accompanying photographs, it may be desirable to give a few brief notes as to the methods of construction. The whole of the external stonework is in Portland stone, mostly in 13 in. courses, that being the height of four courses of the local bricks.

With the exception of the slated roofs and the dome, which are of timber, the whole of the work is in fire-resisting materials, the steel floor joists and stanchions being embedded in concrete, and the flat roofs and ceilings under timber roofs being similarly treated. The only exceptions are the large ceilings over the assembly hall and ante hall, which are for the sake of lightness formed of expanded metal fixed to steel

angles and plastered. These, and the other larger roofs, have steel principals, from which the ceilings are suspended.

Under the main corridors are ducts of the same width, primarily for use as inlet and extract ventilators from all the various rooms, but also of the greatest service in providing runs for the numerous pipes, etc., required in heating, water supplies, electric light, and telephones.

The whole of the fittings, including all wrought metal work and most of the stoves, were specially designed by us for the buildings, and carried out by the firms mentioned at the end of these notes.

With regard to the warming and ventilation, one desirable feature was aimed at from the commencement of the design, namely, that of having a centralised boiler-house and plant. This is situated in the courtyard of the City Hall, from which either or both buildings are served with heat or hot-water as desired.

The whole of the warming system is worked on what is now familiarly known as the "Vacuum" system, and has been installed under the Atmospheric Heating Co.'s patents. By means of this system the temperature of the heating surface is reduced, and no "water" or "air-hammer" is possible.

The general contractors, Messrs. E. Turner and Sons, of Cardiff, have throughout the work taken the greatest interest in its adequate execution.

In order to cover the large area of the site, they erected eight electric derrick cranes with 80 ft. steel lattice jibs, in addition to several other steam cranes and hoists. By this arrangement, stones up to 5 tons in weight were picked up from the ground and placed at once in their position in the buildings.

To cope with the large amount of stonework used a very extensive stoneworking plant was laid down, including a large diamond saw, five horizontal frame saws, and eleven steam moulding machines. Messrs. Turner have, moreover, carried out all the fittings of the council chamber and much of the other cabinet work.

In addition to the various works previously mentioned, we should like to draw attention to the wrought ironwork and electric fittings by Messrs. Veitch and Fenn, the stoves by Messrs. Bratt, Colbran and Co. and the Carron Co., the sanitary work by Messrs. Shanks and Co., and the steel window sashes by Messrs. Henry Hope and Sons. Mr. John P. White carried out the oak panelling, seating, desks, etc., in the civil and criminal courts, the bookcases and panelling in the law library, the oak desks in the rates office, and a large number of specially designed oak tables throughout the building. Messrs. Hampton and Sons are supplying chairs and special hangings, and Messrs. Waring and Gillow are supplying the desks for the various offices.

In conclusion, we should like to pay a brief tribute to the memory of our late partner, Mr. James S. Stewart, who shared all the labour in the original design, but who has not, to our grief, been spared to see the actual completion of the work, which is now at hand.

LANCHESTER AND RICKARDS.

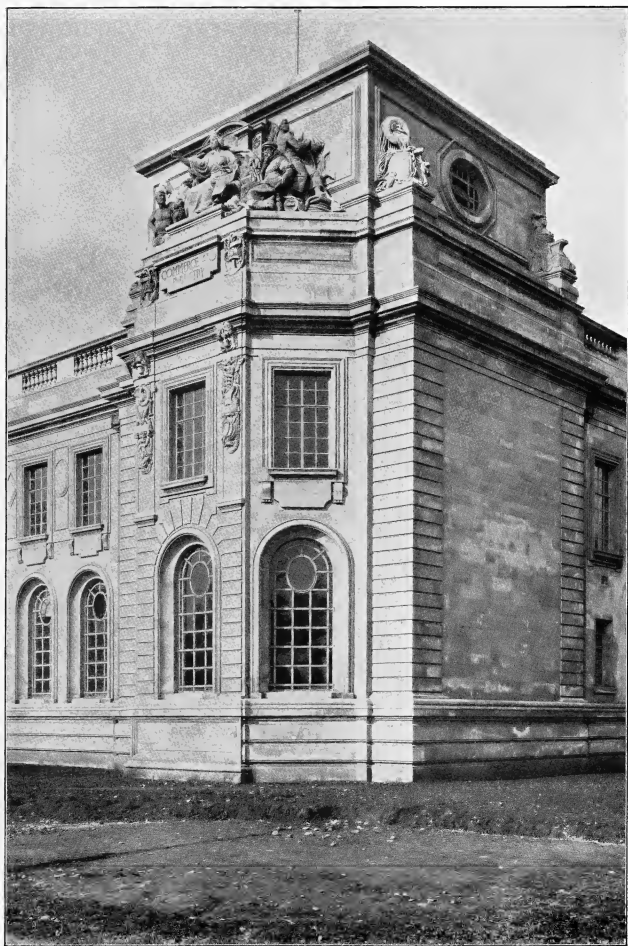


SOUTH-EAST PAVILION, SOUTH FRONT OF CITY HALL.

Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.

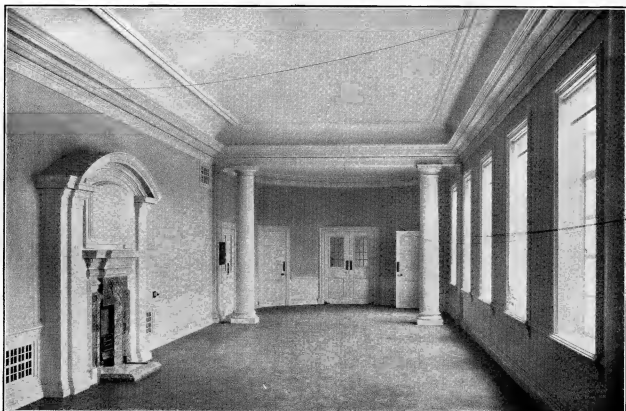


Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.



SOUTH-EAST PAVILION, SOUTH FRONT OF LAW COURTS.

Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

*Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.*

THE REFRESHMENT ROOM, FIRST FLOOR OF CITY HALL.

CARDIFF CITY HALL AND LAW COURTS.

LANCHESTER and RICKARDS, Architects.

H. C. FEHR, ALBERT HODGE, T. A. JONES, D. MCGILL, PAUL R. MONTFORD, and HENRY POOLE, Sculptors.

SIDNEY YOUNG and W. P. BROWN, Quantity Surveyors.

E. C. HOWELL, Clerk of the Works.

E. TURNER & SONS, Cardiff, General Contractors.

FRANK J. THOMAS, Works Manager.

SPECIAL CONTRACTORS:

Heating, Ventilating, and Cooking Plant—ASHWELL & NESBIT, Ltd

Electric Wiring, Telephones, etc.—EDWARDS & ARMSTRONG.

Structural Steel Work—LYSAGHT, Ltd.; A. DAWNAY & SONS, Ltd.

Marble Work—H. T. JENKINS & SON.

Lead Work—WENHAM & WATERS.

Sanitary Works—SHANKS & CO.; TWYFORDS, Ltd., Lifts—LUCAS & SON.

Ornamental Metal Work, etc.—J. W. SINGER & SONS; HARDMAN, POWELL, & CO.; ESCARE & DENELLE; ELKINGTON & CO.

Wrought-iron Work and Electric Fittings—VEITCH & FENN.

Stained Glass—A. GARTH JONES (Cartoons); LOWNDES & DRURY.

Stoves—BRATT, COLBRAN & CO.; THE CARRON CO.

Lightning Conductor Materials—ANDERSON & CO.

Mosaic Pavements—DIESPEKER, Ltd.

Locks—T. JONES, LOCK & CO.

Clocks and Bells—GILLETT & JOHNSTON.

Ornamental Plastering—G. P. BANKART; NICHOLLS & CO.

Steel Window Sashes—HENRY HOPE & SONS.

Stone Carving—W. W. TAYLOR; W. H. WORMLEIGHTON.

Fittings and Furniture—E. TURNER & SONS; JOHN P. WHITE;

HAMPTON & SONS; WARING & GILLOW, Ltd.

Blinds and Curtains—JAMES HOWELL & CO.

Linoleum—MORGAN & CO.

Rubber Mats—A. H. N. REDDAWAY.

Mats, Baskets, etc.—CARDIFF BLIND INSTITUTE.



Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.



ENTRANCE DOORWAY IN STAIRCASE HALL, GROUND FLOOR.

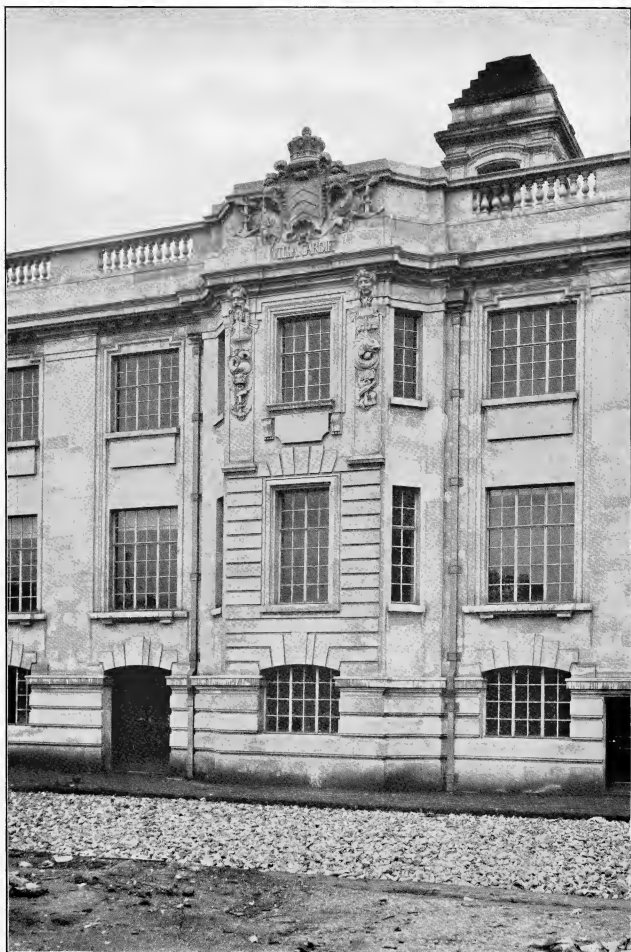


SIDE VIEW OF CARRIAGE PORCH.

Photos : T. Lewis, Birmingham.



THE LOGGIA OF LAW COURTS, FROM THE AVENUE.



CENTRE BAY, NORTH FRONT OF CITY HALL.

Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.



NORTH FRONT OF CITY HALL.

Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.



EAST FRONT OF CITY HALL.

Photo - T. Lewis, Birmingham.

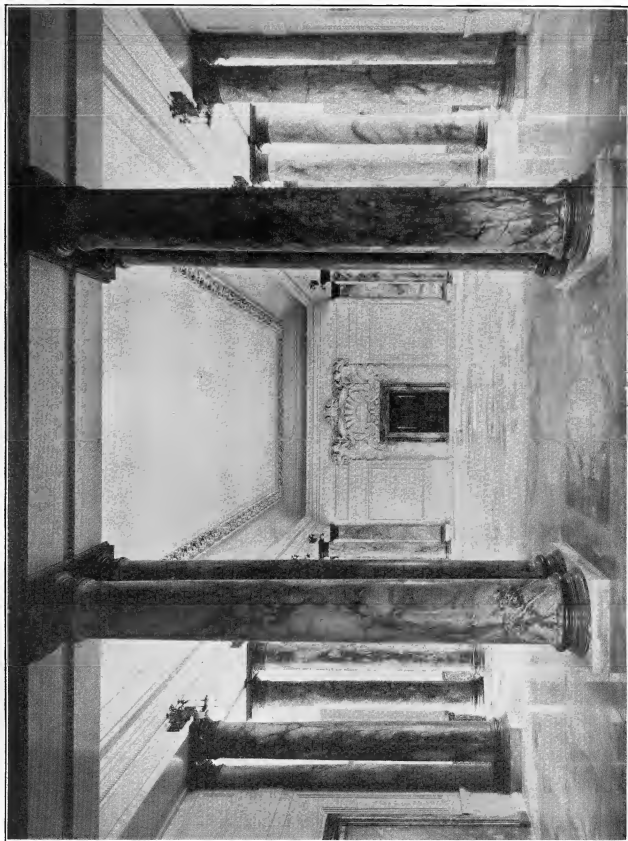


Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.

STAIRCASE HALL, FIRST FLOOR. CARDIFF CITY HALL.



Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.



CARTOON FOR PAINTING OF CEILING OF STAIRCASE HALL.
CARDIFF CITY HALL. BY CHARLES SIMS.



THE ASSEMBLY HALL. CARDIFF CITY HALL.

Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.



Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

STAIRCASE HALL, GROUND FLOOR. CARDIFF CITY HALL.



Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.



Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

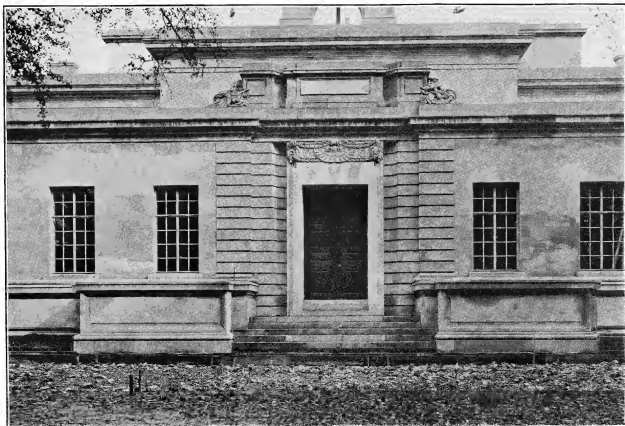


Photo : T. Lewis, Birmingham.



Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham.

AN ASSIZE COURT FROM THE BENCH LEVEL.



The Magistrates' Entrance.



Magistrates' Entrance Hall.

Photos : T. Lewis, Birmingham.

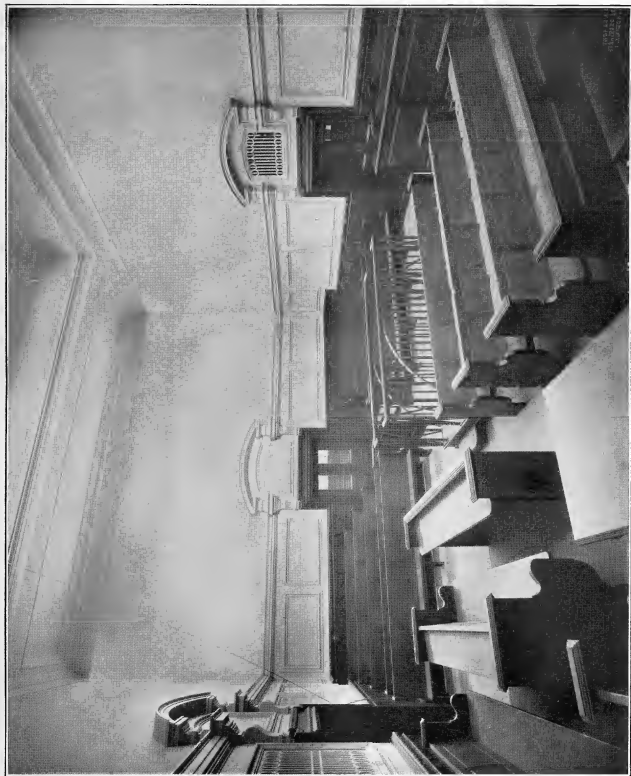
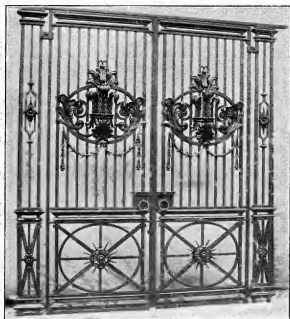


Photo: T. Lewis, Birmingham

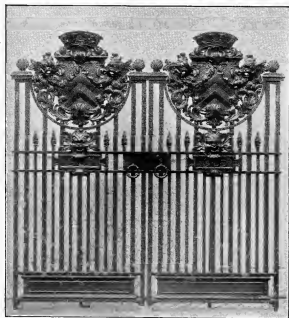
A POLICE COURT FROM THE BENCH LEVEL.



Portion of Bronze Balustrade to Staircase of City Hall.



Gates to Corridor in Wrought Iron.



Entrance Gates in Cast and Wrought Iron.



Electric Light Fitting.



Electric Light Fitting.